



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 1103***

*January Session, 2011*

\*       SB01103HS      042911      \*

***AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 10-16y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3       [There shall be an Office of Early Childhood Planning, Outreach and  
4       Coordination within the Department of Education. The office shall be  
5       responsible for:

6       (1) Planning, developing and coordinating with other agencies the  
7       delivery of services to children birth to nine years of age, inclusive;

8       (2) Coordinating the enhancement and implementation of the Early  
9       Childhood Information System, in consultation with the Early  
10      Childhood Education Cabinet established pursuant to section 10-16z,  
11      with the capability of tracking: (A) The health, safety and school  
12      readiness of all children receiving early care and education from any  
13      local or regional board of education or any program receiving public  
14      funding, in a manner similar to the system described in section 10-10a;  
15      (B) the characteristics of the existing and potential workforce serving  
16      such children in any local or regional school district or in a program  
17      receiving any public funding; and (C) the characteristics of the  
18      programs in which such children are served. The Department of  
19      Education shall be responsible for assigning unique identifiers to all

20 such children and staff and programs tracked by the Early Childhood  
21 Information System. Any local or regional board of education, school  
22 readiness program, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of  
23 section 10-16p receiving any public funding, or any child day care  
24 center described in subdivision (1) of section 19a-77 and licensed by  
25 the Department of Public Health, including any participating in a  
26 program administered by the Department of Social Services pursuant  
27 to chapter 319rr, shall ensure that all children and all staff in such  
28 center or program are entered into the Early Childhood Information  
29 System.

30 (3) Developing and reporting on an early childhood accountability  
31 plan, in consultation with the Early Childhood Education Cabinet;

32 (4) Implementing a communications strategy for outreach to  
33 families, service providers and policymakers;

34 (5) Beginning a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the school  
35 readiness program, not later than January 1, 2010, in consultation with  
36 the Department of Social Services, that examines the educational  
37 progress of children from prekindergarten programs to grade four,  
38 inclusive, including a study of the reliability and validity of the  
39 kindergarten assessment tool developed pursuant to subsection (h) of  
40 section 10-14n; and

41 (6) Developing, coordinating and supporting public and private  
42 partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives.]

43 Not later than September 1, 2011, the Department of Education, in  
44 consultation with the Department of Social Services, shall begin,  
45 within available appropriations, a state-wide longitudinal evaluation  
46 of the school readiness program that examines the educational  
47 progress of children from prekindergarten programs to grade four,  
48 inclusive, including a study of the reliability and validity of the  
49 kindergarten assessment tool developed pursuant to subsection (h) of  
50 section 10-14n.

51 Sec. 2. Section 10-16z of the general statutes is repealed and the  
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

53 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The  
54 cabinet shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the  
55 commissioner's designee, (2) one representative from the Department  
56 of Education who is responsible for programs required under the  
57 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as  
58 amended from time to time, appointed by the Commissioner of  
59 Education, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the  
60 commissioner's designee, (4) a representative from an institution of  
61 higher education in this state appointed by the Commissioner of  
62 Higher Education, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the  
63 commissioner's designee, (6) the Commissioner of Developmental  
64 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (7) the Commissioner of  
65 [Mental Health and Addiction Services] Children and Families, or the  
66 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission  
67 on Children, or the executive director's designee, (9) the project  
68 director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, (10) a  
69 [representative from a Head Start program] parent or guardian of a  
70 child who attends or attended a school readiness program appointed  
71 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a  
72 representative of a local provider of early childhood education  
73 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, (12) two appointed by  
74 the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a member  
75 of the House of Representatives and one of whom is a parent who has  
76 a child attending a school in a priority school district, (13) two  
77 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is  
78 a member of the Senate and one of whom is a representative of a  
79 public elementary school with a prekindergarten program, (14) two  
80 appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a representative of the  
81 Connecticut Head Start Association and one of whom is a  
82 representative of the business or philanthropic community in this  
83 state, [appointed by the Governor,] and (15) the Secretary of the Office  
84 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee. The

85 chairperson of the council shall be appointed from among its members  
86 by the Governor.

87 (b) Within available appropriations and such private funding as  
88 may be available, the Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall (1)  
89 coordinate among state agencies, as well as public and private  
90 partnerships, the development of services that enhance the health,  
91 safety and learning of children from birth to nine years of age,  
92 inclusive, (2) not later than December 1, 2009, and annually thereafter,  
93 develop an annual plan of action that assigns the appropriate state  
94 agency to complete the tasks specified in the federal Head Start Act of  
95 2007, P.L. 110-134, as amended from time to time, (3) develop and  
96 implement an early childhood information system with the capability  
97 of tracking: (A) The health, safety and school readiness of all children  
98 receiving early care and education from any local or regional board of  
99 education or any program receiving public funding, in a manner  
100 similar to the system described in section 10-10a, and (B) the  
101 characteristics of the programs in which such children are served, (4)  
102 implement a communications strategy for outreach to families, service  
103 providers and policymakers, and [(3)] (5) not later than March 1, 2010,  
104 and annually thereafter, submit an annual state-wide strategic report,  
105 pursuant to said federal Head Start Act, in accordance with the  
106 provisions of section 11-4a, addressing the progress such agencies have  
107 made toward the completion of such tasks outlined under said federal  
108 Head Start Act and this subsection to the Governor and the joint  
109 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
110 matters relating to education and human services.

111 (c) The Early Childhood Education Cabinet shall be within the  
112 Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	10-16y
Sec. 2	July 1, 2011	10-16z

***ED***      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

***HS***      *Joint Favorable*